



TENTMAKER NEWS

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Manions visit Spain, France

Trip Underscores European Ministries

Making reservations in January for an international flight to Europe in March was easy. Few people were interested in flying then, especially overseas. The war in the Gulf had just begun. Terrorist threats against Americans were being heard daily out of Baghdad.

It was against this backdrop that Dick and Carolyn Manion waited upon the Lord for direction after making reservations for their visit with TBM missionaries in Spain and France.

The war ended the day before the Manions boarded their flight in Chicago for Europe. Though security remained tight at airports, few problems were met during the two-week trip. This publication of *Tentmakers News* is a report on that trip. We hope you are challenged as we accentuate the TBM ministries being conducted by Don and Denise Tucker in Spain, and by Steve and Brenda Nesbitt and Jon Steele in France.



Serving in Southern Spain – Don and Denise Tucker with sons Stephen (left) and Jonathan in Seville, Spain. The Tuckers live and minister in the nearby town of Dos Hermanas. Don's "tentmaking" trade is windshield repair. He is using this business to help meet the needs on the field, including the needs of national workers – teaching them to use this trade to expand their ministry in the churches.



Missionaries in Northern France – Steve and Brenda Nesbitt, and children David (held by Steve), Daniel, and Stephanie in their town of Ronchin, France—a suburb of Lille, the 4th largest city in France. The Nesbitts, along with short-term worker, Jon Steele, conduct numerous ministries among the people of their area. Steve's "tentmaking" takes him into the classroom where he teaches English to approximately 25 French people twice each week. As reported in the February issue of *Tentmaker News*, Steve and Brenda are expecting twins this July. They have an immediate need for larger housing and additional funds to meet this need.

Photos and related news on the ministries in France and Spain appear on the following pages.

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The following accounts of the Manion's recent 14-day visit with TBM missionaries in Spain and France are excerpts from Carolyn Manion's personal diary of the trip.

Thursday, February 28

Dick brought opening message of missionary conference at our home church last night. After service . . . packing, laundry, cleaning. Not much sleep. 6:40 a.m. – son Jeff picks us up to catch train to Chicago. 10:30 a.m. – Elwood Chipchase meets train in Chicago. We go to his church in Cicero for lunch with ladies hosting mission conference meal. Elwood and Joy drive us to airport at 3 p.m. At 6 p.m. flight leaves for Europe. Sabena Airlines (Belgian). French spoken first over intercom, then Dutch, then English. Pick up more passengers in Boston. Until then plane 1/3 full.

Friday, March 1

Slept most of flight overseas. 9:30 a.m. landing in Brussels. Sun shining brightly. Back home it is 3:30 in morning, middle of night. Terminal building sign: "Welcome to Belgium, Crossroads of Europe." 5-hour lay-over here. We walk, visit shops, learn how to flush European toilets. Dick learned how to count Belgian francs after paying \$2.50 U.S. for can of Coke. "Welcome to Belgium." Saw Spanish lady weeping, distraught. We had no Spanish tracts. Asked her if she spoke English. She didn't. Wished I could have shared gospel in her tongue. 2:20 p.m. – leave for Spain on Iberia Airlines. 4:20 – change planes in Madrid for Seville.

On flight to Seville I shared the Lord with lady seated by me from Germany . . . traveling to Seville to see boyfriend, an American in the Air Force. She spoke English very well. She talked about difference between East and West Germany before and after Berlin Wall. I offered a tract; she said she would read it.

In Seville at 7 p.m. No luggage. Final piece would arrive next day. Don Tucker met us at airport. We reach Tucker's apartment in Dos Hermanas at 8 p.m. In bed by 11 p.m. No bed ever felt better.

Saturday, March 2

8 a.m. I go with Denise Tucker to large market. She bought veggies, fruit, chicken, and hamburger. After shopping I help Denise with laundry, hanging clothes out on roof of apartment building. We then bake cake for their son Jonathan's birthday which is tomorrow.

Dick left early this morning with Don to see windshield repair business in action. Don picked up Juan Carlos, a leader in the Dos Hermanas church. They repaired two truck windshields today.

12 midnight, bedtime. We are told we are now on typical Spanish schedule.

Sunday, March 3

Off to church. Beautiful weather today – maybe 70°. Dick preached this morning, Don interpreting. We met many kind people at church today. Sunday School classes were much like anywhere only much smaller and in Spanish. After church, Tuckers took us to the country for special birthday time for Jonathan . . . cake and home-made ice cream. Took short walk to see old bull ring. Almost too hot for my sweatshirt. On way home we stopped car to allow goat herd to cross. Back at Tuckers we met Chuck, single missionary to Spain, who shared testimony with us. Ended day with Dick's favorite – popcorn.



Monday, March 4

Dick learns he can watch CBS Evening News (in English) rebroadcast on Spanish TV at 8 a.m. News is condensed to about 20 minutes without advertising. Most of news is about Iraq and Kuwait, POWs, etc. We leave with Denise for Seville at 11 a.m. Visit famous Cathedral, 3rd largest in world after St. Peter's in Rome, and St. Paul's in London. Massive and ancient . . . but empty and cold. What a

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contrast to warmth of believers yesterday! Visit other parts of Seville . . . narrow and quaint streets, shops, Spanish courtyards and apartments. 2:30 p.m. – Return to Tuckers for lunch. Dick and Don go back to Seville for meeting. Dick visits only Christian bookstore in Seville. Very small store for city of over 1 million. Tonight Denise fixes "tortilla" spinach, mushroom omelet – by candlelight at 11 p.m. just as Spaniards would.

Tuesday, March 5

I leave this morning with Denise for ladies' Bible study. I share my testimony with Denise interpreting. Wish I knew Spanish. We walk to post office to mail a few cards. Evening. We all drive into Seville. Visit park, see doves, beautiful greenery, ornate tile. Dick compares Seville area to Northern California. Return home – watch Moody Science video. Calls come in all hours of day and night for Tuckers. Life is busy here.



Wednesday, March 6

Don's 40th birthday. We leave for mission strategy meeting in Seville. Most missionaries are with T.E.A.M. I share a short testimony and then Dick speaks, mostly about philosophy of Tentmakers Bible Mission . . . good response and fellowship. Back in Dos Hermanas . . . time to do our laundry. Very windy day. Prayer meeting tonight. VERY GOOD!!! Dick again shared, with Don's help in Spanish. These are dear brothers and sisters in Christ.



Thursday, March 7

This was get-away day. Trip to Gibraltar – owned by Great Britain. Area of just two square miles yet like being in another country . . . border crossing, passports, etc. Everything written in English here. Road signs are funny, "give way" (yield); "no over taking" (no passing); "at all times don't park here" (no parking). Drove around, and through Rock of Gibraltar. Could see N. Africa land in distance. Rain most of day. Tuckers shop here when possible. Most items cost much less than in Spain. One and a half hour wait getting across border on trip back into Spain. Bed – 11 p.m.

Friday, March 8

Final goodbyes to Denise. What a dear friend she has become! Don drove us to the airport for return flight to Brussels. Steve Nesbitt and Jon Steele met us there at 7:30 p.m. We cross border into France from Belgium. Cars drive fast here . . . zoom by at 85 or more mph. Steve has reserved an economy motel (\$22 per night) for us just a short distance from their home in Ronchin, near the city of Lille. Toilet and shower are down the hall but clean and adequate. (Steve at ball practice.→)



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Saturday, March 9

Steve picks us up at 8 a.m. Dick has sinus infection . . . sees a doctor and gets some medication. Brenda fixes delicious French meal . . . ham and cheese cooked on small table grill. Steve leaves for baseball practice. He works with about 70 young men from the greater Lille area in baseball with Jon Steele helping. We drive to ballfield to watch.

In evening Dick goes with Steve to church where he holds play practice for another group of young men. The play portrays Christ's confrontation with the powers of darkness . . . an ever present reality here in France.



Sunday, March 10

Began day with basket of French bread, butter and jellies, coffee, tea and milk, etc. Nesbitts picked us up for church...good service with testimonies, choruses, prayer, communion, and brief message. Closed with How Great Thou Art, in French of course. Dick simply gave word of greeting. Man gave me a bouquet of tulips and pink flowers after service, which we took to Nesbitts. Afternoon - ball players come to Nesbitts for brief visit. Then small group Bible study meets at 6:30. Dick shared his testimony with Steve interpreting. After group leaves, Brenda serves popcorn and tomato soup.

Monday, March 11

Grocery shopping with Brenda in Belgium. Prices cheaper than in France. You must pay a deposit to use a grocery cart. Saw World War II bunkers along highway and military cemeteries with white crosses. This area is place from poem: "Flanders fields - where poppies blow, between the crosses row on row." Back in Ronchin. Did laundry. Dick leaves with Steve for his English class of about 25 people. Dick is interviewed by class on his occupation, family, etc. Dick is impressed with the way Steve has become acquainted with these people from all walks of life.

Tuesday, March 12

Travel to Brugge, Belgium. Pretty countryside. Brugge is known for its lace, canals, bell tower, swans. Unusually old town with stepped gable roofs, lovely cobblestone streets, ducks, horsedrawn carriages, lace shops, breathtaking art. History is here . . . and today, so are we. It's an honor.



Wednesday, March 13

Steve escorts Dick and me through Paris . . . we see the Mona Lisa original, many sculptures, famous paintings; we walk and walk. Visited Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral and Eiffel Tower. Back in Ronchin around 9 p.m.

Thursday, March 14

Final goodbyes to Brenda . . . another dear friend God has given. Packed and left for Brussels and flight home. Steve and Jon drove us to airport. Tight security remains at all airports today. We return to Grand Rapids at 11 p.m. Michigan time. It will take a week before we return to a normal life and schedule.